

Applicant : Hajime Kimura
Serial No. : 10/727,057
Filed : December 4, 2003
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Attorney's Docket No.: 12732-186001 / US6794

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 32-34 and replaces the original sheets including Figs. 31-34.

In Figures 32-34, the label "Prior Art" has been added to the figures to overcome the objection to the drawings.

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheets (2 pages)
Annotated Sheets Showing Change(s) (2 pages)

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending, with claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 13, and 15 being independent. New claims 30-34 are added by this amendment. No new matter is added.

Figures 32-34 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to include the legend "Prior Art." Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests removal of the objection to the drawings.

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has amended claim 15 to correct the antecedent basis deficiency and, thus, respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that dependent claims 16, 25, 27, and 29, which depend from independent claim 15, are allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant submits that claim 15 is now in condition for allowance and, therefore, its dependent claims are also in condition for allowance without rewriting them in independent form.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11-14, 19-21, 24, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsusaka (U.S. 6,498,575). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 1 recites a semiconductor device that includes, among other features, m-pieces of current sources and a switching circuit having m-pieces of output terminals, where the current sources I_k and the output terminal O_k of the switching circuit are electrically connected to each other ($k = 1$ to m). Thus, the number of current sources and the number of output terminals are the same. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because Matsusaka fails to describe or suggest m-pieces of current sources and m-pieces of output terminals, where the number of current sources and the number of output terminals are the same.

Instead, Matsusaka suggests several pieces of current sources (503 of Fig. 1) and only two output terminals in a switching circuit (75 and 76 of Fig. 2). Thus, Matsusaka does not describe or suggest m-pieces of current sources and m-pieces of output terminals, where the number of current sources and the number of output terminals are the same.

For at least these reasons, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 and its respective dependent claim 2.

Independent claim 5 recites a semiconductor device that includes m-pieces of current sources and a switching circuit having m-pieces of output terminals, where the m-pieces of the current sources are each connected to one of the different output terminals. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because Matsusaka fails to describe or suggest m-pieces of current sources and a switching circuit having m-pieces of output terminals, where the m-pieces of the current sources are each connected to one of the different output terminals.

Rather, Matsusaka suggests several pieces of current sources (503 of Fig. 1) and only two output terminals in a switching circuit (75 and 76 of Fig. 2). Thus, Matsusaka does not describe or suggest m-pieces of current sources and m-pieces of output terminals, where the m-pieces of current sources are each connected to one of the different output terminals.

For at least these reasons, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 5 and its dependent claims 7 and 8.

Similarly to independent claim 5, each of independent claims 6, 11, and 13 recites an arrangement that includes m-pieces of current sources and a switching circuit having m-pieces of output terminals, where the m-pieces of the current sources are each connected to one of the different output terminals. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 6, 11, and 13 and their respective dependent claims 12, 14, 19-21, and 24, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 5.

With respect to dependent claim 25, which depends from independent claim 15, applicant submits that the inclusion of claim 25 in this rejection was a typographical error since the Examiner indicated that claim 25 was allowable.

Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, and 28, which depend from their respective independent claims 1, 5, 6, 11, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsusaka in view of Gu (U.S. 6,525,683). Applicant requests

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reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection at least because Gu does not remedy the failure of Matsusaka to describe or suggest the features recited in independent claims 1, 5, 6, 11, and 13 from which claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, and 28 respectively depend.

With respect to dependent claim 27, which depends from independent claim 15, applicant submits that the inclusion of claim 27 in this rejection was a typographical error since the Examiner indicated that claim 27 was allowable.

Separately, claims 1, 2, and 16 have been amended for reasons not related to patentability to correct clerical errors.

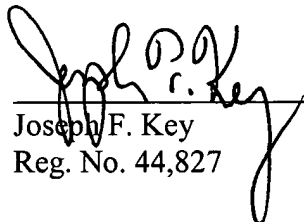
Applicant submits that new dependent claims 30-34, which depend from their respective independent claims 1, 5, 6, 11, and 13, are allowable for at least the reasons that the current art of record fails to describe or suggest the features of their respective independent claims.

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Enclosed is a \$250 check for excess claim fees. During the pendency and prosecution of this application, please apply any deficiencies or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/28/2005



Joseph F. Key
Reg. No. 44,827

Fish & Richardson P.C.
1425 K Street, N.W.
11th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-3500
Telephone: (202) 783-5070
Facsimile: (202) 783-2331



FIG.31

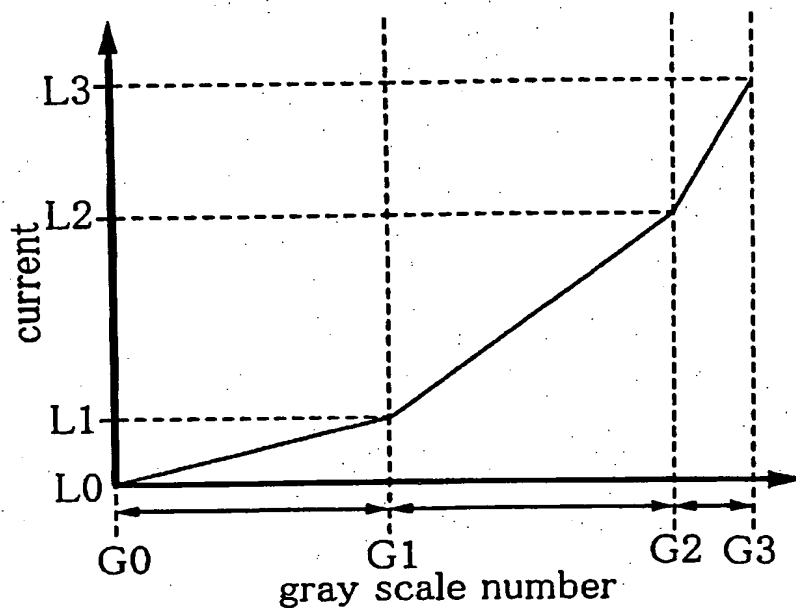
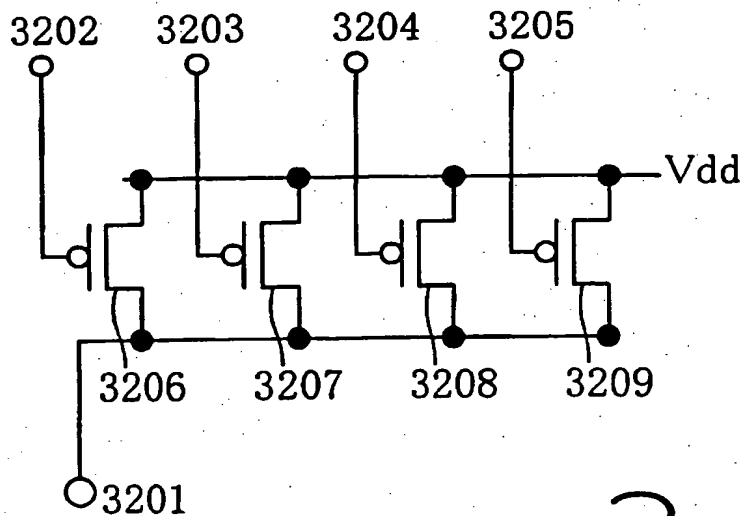


FIG.32



Prior Art



FIG.33

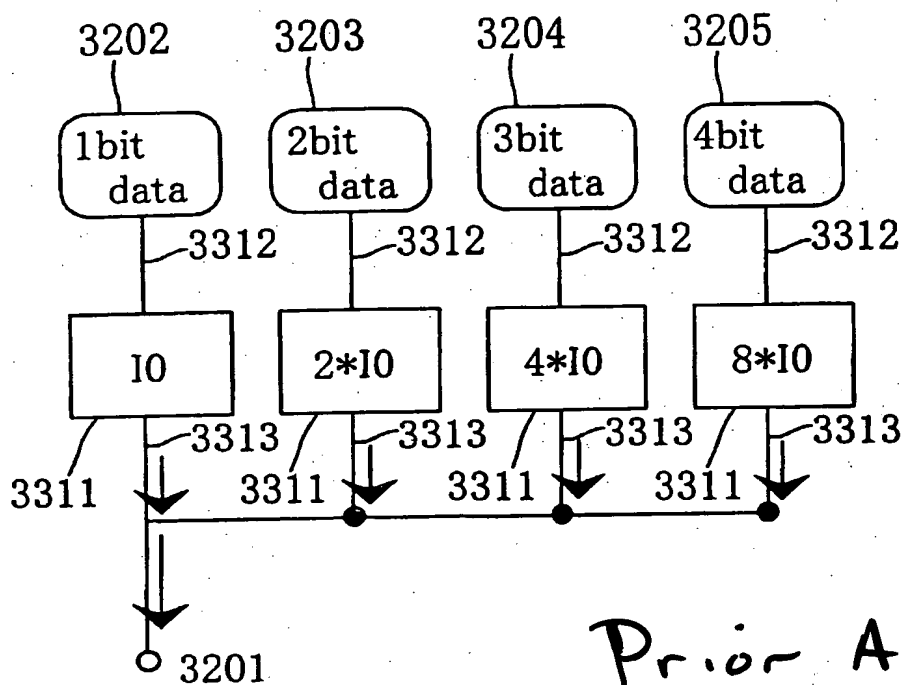
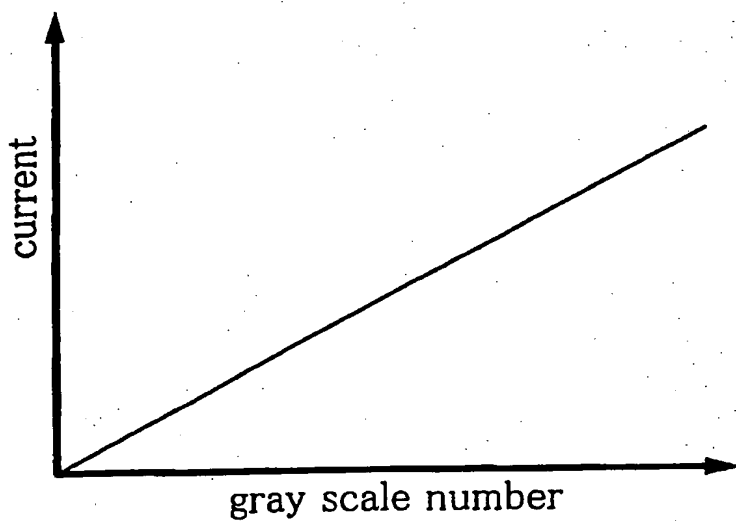


FIG.34



Prior Art